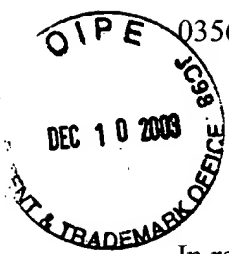


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03560.002387

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: K. Ramsey
HIDEHIKO FUJIMURA, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2879
Application No.: 09/309,766)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 7945
Filed: May 11, 1999)	
	:	
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING)	December 10, 2003
AIRTIGHT VESSEL AND IMAGE-	:	
FORMING APPARATUS USING)	
AIRTIGHT VESSEL	:	

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST TO ACKNOWLEDGE CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

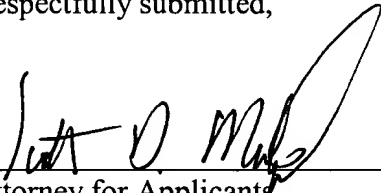
Sir:

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 filed July 20, 1999.

Applicants recently received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due mailed November 28, 2003. However, to date, Applicants have not received any communication acknowledging receipt of the Claim for Priority by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the priority documents.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Scott D. Malpede
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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